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March 17, 2011

Mr. Geoffrey Blackwell  
Consumers and Governmental Affairs Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: NAVAJO NATION RURAL ADDRESSING**

Dear Sir:

The Navajo Nation is a Native American-governed territory covering 26,000 square miles of mostly rural and remote parts of northeastern Arizona, southeastern Utah, and northwestern New Mexico. This represents the largest land area assigned primarily to a Native American jurisdiction within the United States. The most recent available census date (2004) reported 173,987 Navajo citizens (58% of all Navajos) living on the Navajo Nation's territory, reflecting a density of about 7 persons per square mile.

I am writing to provide you with some general background on the Navajo Nation's ongoing efforts to establish a jurisdiction-wide uniform system of rural addressing for our citizens. Today, the Navajo Nation contains substantial areas where the United States Postal Services addressing system is not in place. That is, many Navajos live in areas with no formal address. They receive no services from the Postal Services in these areas. Mail is picked up at a post office box located at the nearest town with a post office. Often that town is many miles from home. The lack of formal addressing is made worse each year as the Navajo population continues to grow. Difficulties implementing the nation's 911 and E-911 systems pose a serious health and safety problem for Navajo citizens living in areas without formal addresses.

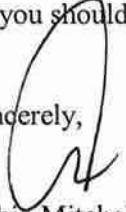
In 2008, to help address this problem and to support implementation of an effective E-911 system, the NNAA was established. The NNAA was intended to be a permanent organization that would institutionalize the processes needed to create a universal rural addressing system and to maintain and integrate the required databases to support E-911 deployment (Geographic Information System ("GIS") Master Street Addressing Guide ("MSAG"), for E-911).

In April 2009, the Navajo Nation formally adopted a plan to complete rural addressing over a three-year period. As part of this plan, NNAA has established relationships with all Navajo Nation Chapters. Each Chapter is responsible for identifying livable dwellings, labeling the type of dwelling, (Hogan, Trailer, Frame Built, etc.), and providing this information to the NNAA who, for every dwelling, is then responsible for mapping out and assigning an address and providing address signage.

The NNAA must also create street names for any road (dirt or other) with 4 or more dwellings on the road. While significant progress has been made toward completing this effort, the process is currently under-funded and so far only 10 out of 110 Chapters have provided NNAA the information it needs to complete the addressing plan. Nevertheless our efforts are continuing as we look forward to the benefits of better emergency response and improved services generally that will flow to our residents and communities when the plan is finally completed.

If you should have questions about NNAA's effort, I would be more than happy to talk with you further.

Sincerely,



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